

DBC NEWS

A news update from the **D**achshund **B**reed **C**ouncil

November 2008

www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

cord1: Cone Rod Dystrophy

Thanks to the research carried out by the Animal Health Trust we now know that the retinal degeneration (formerly called PRA) found in Miniature Long-haired Dachshunds is actually a form of Cone-rod dystrophy. The genetic mutation is known as cord1 and a DNA Test is available.

The identical mutation exists in Miniature Smooth-haired Dachshunds and can be tested for using the same DNA test as for MLHDs.

We have produced a simple one-page guide to Retinal Degeneration which includes advice for Dachshund breeders and puppy buyers. This was made available to the public at Discover Dogs. The guide is available for download from our website: www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

Registration of MLHDs

cord1 testing of MLHDs is now well-established and results are reported by the KC as part of its Schedule A testing scheme. It was agreed by the Breed Council that it is now appropriate to request the KC to tighten-up registration of MLHD puppies.

We have requested that cord 1 DNA testing of breeding stock should now be a mandatory requirement for registering MLHDs, or that they should be “hereditary Clear”.

We also requested that the Kennel Club should no longer advertise puppies that are produced from stock that have not had the cord1 health screening.

Laboklin UK

A new test laboratory is offering cord1 DNA testing to UK Dachshund breeders. They

therefore provide an alternative to the AHT. Laboklin UK is based in Manchester and can be contacted via their website: www.laboklin.co.uk

The Breed Council cannot make any recommendations about the quality of their service and we would be pleased to hear from anyone who has used them.

We wrote to the KC to ask them to ensure Laboklin reported cord1 test results for MLHDs to the KC. Laboklin have now confirmed to us that they will report MLHD cord1 results to the KC for publication.

Laboklin are also offering a DNA test for **PK Deficiency (Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency)** which they claim affects Dachshunds.

Having consulted the Animal Health Trust and KC we can find no evidence that this is a condition which UK breeders should be concerned about. At present, we are therefore recommending that testing for PKD in UK Dachshunds is not necessary.

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Judging Lists

The Breed Council is currently compiling its Judging Lists for 2009. For the first time, we will have National A, B and C Lists. The A1, A2 and A3 Lists are adopted by every member Club, but each Club retains the option to publish its own B and C Lists.

Anyone wishing to be considered for a B or C List should send their CV to one of the Breed Club Secretaries, with a copy to Lesley Brown (Breed Council Secretary) at devoncreamdax@homecall.co.uk who is compiling the BC Lists. The deadline is 30th November 2008.

Clubs are also reviewing the suitability of the current criteria for the B Lists. Any changes will be agreed at the Breed Council's next meeting (May 10th 2009) and would come into effect for the 2010 Judging Lists. Those currently on a B List will not be affected by any changes.

IVDD: Back Problems

We all know that Dachshunds are more prone to back problems than many other breeds. Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD) is probably the first concern that puppy buyers ask about when they are considering getting a Dachshund.

There is some very interesting research being undertaken in the USA and in Europe which includes the development of an X-ray screening examination. There is also a research programme in place to investigate the possibility of a DNA screening test.

Lots of useful advice is available on the internet; perhaps the best being at www.dodgerslist.com

The Dachshund Club of America (DCA) have published a comprehensive booklet, available at: <http://www.dachshund-dca.org/discbook.html> and this concludes by saying...

By recognising the causes and consequences of the problem, owners may prevent a great deal of difficulties by restricting the amount of excessive jumping and managing the weight of their dogs. In the event disc herniation does occur, veterinary attention should be sought immediately since the earlier medical and surgical

intervention are begun, the better the therapeutic outcome.

Copies of the DCA booklet are being obtained by the Dachshund Club and will be available for purchase.

Double Dapple Health Risks

We have produced a one-page guide to the lethal health risks associated with Double Dapple matings. This includes advice to breeders that this combination is not acceptable and should be avoided. It also includes advice to puppy buyers to beware of adverts for so called "rare colours" including Double Dapple.

One of the Breed Standard amendments we have proposed to the KC is that Double Dapple is an unacceptable colour and we shall also be asking that Double Dapple Registrations should no longer be permitted.

The leaflet is available for download from our website: www.dachshundbreedcouncil.org.uk

We have been advised by the KC that the results of their review of our Breed Standard will be issued early in December, together with their proposed Health Plan for the breed.